



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

January 5, 2007

News from the Chief

Thanks to your outstanding and dedicated efforts, overall crime during 2006 dropped for a third consecutive year to a level not experienced since 1990. While official crime tabulations for last year have not yet been completed, the major categories of homicide, rape, aggravated assault, larceny, and auto theft are all expected to show declines.

Despite increased demands for police services, the men and women of the police department continue to excel. A record high 741,186 complaint numbers were issued during 2006 (a 4.4% increase). That is an average of 601 per officer. I am very proud of your work and the community's support for this police department. I am very pleased that the number of organized neighborhood watch groups, made up of citizens who want to partner with us to enhance our city's safety, grew by 13.4% during 2006 to 348.

During 2007, Nashville will continue to confront the very serious problem of repeat offenders. Our department's Strategic Development Division is conducting new research that illustrates just how troubling and dangerous the issue of recidivism is in our community. For example, 65.8% of the 73 persons arrested for robbery in the East Precinct over the past 12 months had a prior conviction for at least one crime. In the Hermitage Precinct, 73.1% of the 52 persons arrested for robbery over the past 12 months had at least one prior conviction. In the North Precinct, 76.3% of the 80 persons arrested for robbery had at least one prior conviction. In the South Precinct, 65.7% of the 99 persons arrested for robbery had at least one prior conviction. In the West Precinct, 80% of the 45 persons arrested for robbery had at least one prior conviction. In the very near future, the Public Safety Coalition, made up of Police Chiefs, Sheriffs and District Attorneys from across Tennessee, will propose legislation calling for certain violent offenders to serve the bulk of their sentences before release/parole eligibility. We in the coalition are hoping for strong support in cities and counties throughout our state.

Happenings



Graduation Ceremony of Sessions 50 & 51 on December 14, 2006 at Schrader Lane Church of Christ.



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Officer Chris Gilder Teaches Law to Session 52.



Session 52 running during physical training.



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Officer Marsh Update:

Another \$1,700.00 has been raised from items sold in the auction to benefit Danita Marsh. The total amount raised from the auction is now \$29,817!!! Thank you to all who participated.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Great teamwork New Year's Day led to the quick arrest of a robbery suspect. The suspect entered the Vista Inn Hotel at 5770 Old Hickory Boulevard at 8:15 a.m. and inquired about a room. The suspect wrote his name on a form and became agitated. He screamed at the clerk and demanded cash. He put his hand in his shirt to give the impression that he was armed. The suspect fled on foot with approximately \$400 cash. K-9 responded as well as precinct detectives. Officer Kenneth Elkins researched the suspect's name. He was able to give Detective Jeff Ball a picture of the suspect for a photo lineup in which the clerk identified the suspect. Officers then received a call about a fight at nearby Burning Tree Apartments. One of the two men involved in the fight ended up being the suspect in the hotel robbery. He was taken into custody by Sergeant Doug Jones and Officers Mark Longmire and Charles Drew. The stolen cash was found on the suspect.

East

Outstanding police work by East Precinct Officer Jamie King led to Tuesday night's arrest of a 15-year-old runaway who minutes earlier carjacked a Tennessee Department of Correction

employee. Ronald Pointer, 57, stopped his 1984 Chevrolet Celebrity for the stop sign at the intersection of Cleveland Street and Lischey Avenue at 8:25 p.m. The teenager and two others appeared, pointed a pistol at Pointer, and demanded that he surrender the car. Pointer complied and walked to a nearby fire station to notify police. Within minutes of Pointer's call, Officer King spotted Pointer's car at the intersection of Cleveland and Stockell Streets. When King attempted to stop the vehicle, all three occupants quickly jumped out and fled. King parked his police car and chased the driver for several blocks before catching up to him in the 900 block of Stockell Street. Pointer subsequently identified the teenager as the gunman.

West

Officer Shane Shetler noticed a house on fire at 602 26th Avenue North. Flames were shooting up four feet on the side of the home near the air conditioner. Officer Shetler advised his partner, Officer Tyrone Wimberly, to knock on the front door and evacuate the residents. Officer Shetler called the Fire Department. He then ran to his police vehicle and retrieved his fire extinguisher and was able to put out the fire before Fire Department personnel arrived. Great job by Officer Shetler and Officer Wimberly.

South

A traffic stop by South Precinct Flex Officer Corey Wall Wednesday night led to the arrest of a Brentwood man for transporting more than one pound of marijuana. Officer Wall stopped the driver of a Honda Accord, Michael Allen Lacey, 30, of Autumn Oaks Drive, at 8:15 p.m. for driving 48 miles per hour in a 35 mile per hour zone on Tusculum Road near Benzing Road. Officer Wall noticed a very strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Officer Wall asked Lacey if anyone had been smoking marijuana in the vehicle. Lacey replied that he had, and handed the officer a marijuana cigarette. A probable cause search of Lacey's vehicle uncovered more than 1.5 pounds of marijuana and \$3000 cash. Lacey is charged with felony marijuana possession for resale.

Central & Specialized Investigations Division

New Year's Eve in downtown Nashville was very busy with large crowds on the streets and in the clubs. Traffic was also very heavy. Specialized Investigations Division with the Mobile Observation Platform, Horse Patrol and Flex Units all worked together with patrol in the downtown area. As a result of the added personnel and close crowd control no significant events occurred. Officers did a great job in downtown over the holidays from the Music City Bowl to the Titan's game to the Predator's contests. Traffic was handled extremely well and visitors to our city were well served.

Background and Recruiting

By Lt. Michelle Donegan

Applicants have completed surveys at the last three civil service test dates regarding how they heard about the Metro Police Department. Overwhelmingly, applicants advised they heard about us through current MPD employees – meaning you are our number one recruitment tool. So when you are approached by perspective candidates inquiring about the ad, encourage them to view our Web site at www.police.nashville.org or call the Recruitment Office at 862-7341.

Congratulations:

Officer Chris Higdon, North Precinct, and his wife, Lee, are the proud parents of Emma Brooks, born December 20.

Officer Jeff Ha, South Precinct, and his wife, Sengdao, are the proud parents of Audrina Dao, born December 21.

Lieutenant Justin Pinkelton, East Precinct, and family, welcomed Jentry, December 29.

Officer Brandon Hazzard, Central Precinct, and his wife, Brenda, are the proud parents of Eric David, born December 31.

In Prayers:

Officer Danita Marsh, North Precinct, as she recovers.

Condolences:

Lynn Casey, daughter of Retired Chief Joe Casey, and supervisor at the Emergency Communications Center, passed away January 2.

Mr. Bobby Mullens, brother of Payroll's Judy Hayes, passed away December 30.

Mrs. Betty Kress, grandmother of North Precinct Officer John Carlisle, passed away December 27.

Mrs. Gladys Buchanan, wife of retired Sergeant Fred Buchanan, passed away in December.

Mr. Ollie Malone, grandfather of South Flex Officer Jason Baird, passed away December 26.

Mrs. Jane Seckel, grandmother of South Precinct Detective Joe Winter, passed away December 18.

Mr. Delton Riddle, father of former Metro Police Officer Ron Riddle, passed away December 15.

Tanquary Beavers and Thurston Turner, nephews of Youth Services Sergeant Toney Turner, passed away. Tanquary passed away December 17. Thurston passed away December 26.

Mr. Vincent Edenfield, father of Joey Edenfield, MDHA Task Force, passed away in December. Mr. Edenfield was a retired Metro police officer.

Mr. Jimmy Hibbs, brother of retired Captain Tommy Hibbs, passed away in December.

Officer Roy Morris' mother passed away December 24.

Mr. Ollie Malone, grandfather of South Flex Officer Jason Baird, passed away December 26.

Mrs. Doris Kinney, grandmother of South Precinct Officer Dylan Kinney, passed away January 1.

FYI:

The new Promotional Register for sergeants will be certified by the Civil Service Commission during its Tuesday, January 9, 2007 meeting. Because this is close to the February 1st annual rebid time, Chief Serpas and DCOP Bishop are postponing the rebid for one month (the rebid will be effective on March 1, 2007). This is being done so the rebid will be fair to all personnel, with the newly promoted sergeants also bidding for their precinct and detail assignments as a sergeant.

COMPSTAT on Friday, February 23, 2007 will be at Lipscomb University, located at 3901 Granny White Pike. This is an excellent opportunity for faculty and students at Lipscomb to have a better understanding of the COMPSTAT process and see what we do each week to reduce crime in Nashville. SDD will keep you updated as to the location of COMPSTAT on their campus (the starting time will be the same), along with other logistical issues (parking, etc.).

The Fiscal Affairs office has moved to Suite 321 (formally Intelligence) of the CJC.

Police calendars for 2007 are on sale for \$10 each. The calendar features law enforcement officers from across the state including two of Metro Nashville's finest. Officers were photographed with Special Olympics athletes in sports clothes and in uniform. ALL proceeds go to the Special Olympics of Tennessee. Calendars can be purchased at the Field Operations Bureau office.

Metro Police annuals can still be ordered. Pre-ordering is available online at: <http://www.nashvillepolicehistory.com> Annuals will be in and distributed around the first of the year. Please see the Bicentennial Board for further information.

Up-Beat:

These are from the book, Disorder in the Courts of America, and are things people said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters who managed to keep a straight face while these exchanges took place.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at the time?

WITNESS: Uh....

ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

